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CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT  
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## "LEBANESE MURDERERS MUST BE PUNISHED"

Israel has been in a state of turmoil since the Commission of Inquiry issued its harsh report on the indirect responsibility of certain high Israeli officials for the massacres in Beirut.

In Lebanon there have been no reports. The so-called "inquiry" appears to be feeble--if, in fact, it exists at all! The shots that killed hundreds of Palestinian civilians and maimed still hundreds more were fired by Lebanese. The soldiers who committed the atrocities were members of the Lebanese Christian Phalangists militia.

It is an intolerable injustice that the Phalangists directly responsible for the horrible massacres at Sabra and Chatilla may well go completely unpunished.

I do not wish to deny for a moment the grave moral responsibility of those in the Israeli government who acted or failed to act to protect the massacred victims. As a Jew, I am proud that the government of Israel convened a most distinguished tribunal. The Government of Israel empowered that Commission with the full powers of any court of law, including the right to question any person, no matter how highly placed, whose testimony might shed light on the tragedy.

The Israeli Kahan Commission was insulated from public and media pressures by an unusual provision of Israeli law which strictly forbids reporting, speculating, or commenting on the work of such a Commission while it is in progress. The results underscored the integrity of the Commission. The Commission "let the chips fall where they may". Some individuals were exonerated. Others, like Prime Minister Begin, were castigated not for what they did, but for their insufficient level of interest and involvement. Still others, like Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, were not only sharply criticized, but were deemed unworthy of continuing in their Cabinet posts.

Meanwhile, in Lebanon nothing of any consequence has transpired. Neither the media nor the government show any interest in apprehending and bringing to justice the actual perpetrators of the murders.

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I see no sign of any segment of the Lebanese population outraged at the possibility that a Christian Phalangist leader--President Amin Gemayel--may be covering up for high-level figures in the Christian Phalangist militia.

I am equally outraged at the double standards of the American media and political leaders around the world. The media has made the names of Gen. Ariel Sharon, General Eitan, General Drori, and Major General Yehoshua Saguy, almost household words. These men and others criticized by the Commission have been blasted on editorial pages all over the world.

Do not think for a moment that the failure to criticize the Lebanese directly responsible for the massacres comes from lack of knowledge. For example, the Israeli Commission of Inquiry and totally independent major publications and wire services have identified Elie Hobeika as the coordinator and commander of the raids on Sabra and Chatilla. Other key participants have been identified by press and survivors.

One of the most blood-curdling episodes in the massacres involves Hobeika directly. An Israeli officer picked up a radio conversation in which a Phalangist officer told Hobeika that he was holding 50 women and children and did not know how to proceed. Hobeika answered, "This is the last time you're going to ask me a question like that. You know exactly what to do." Hobeika and his buddies broke into raucous laughter. The cold-blooded killings proceeded.

Elie Hobeika is chief of Phalangist intelligence. I said "is" not "was". This man, suspected of crimes against humanity, still holds his high post. I hope we will not once again see the world close its eyes to war crimes in the interest of political expediency.

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